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REMARKS

This amendment and remarks are submitted in response to the outstanding office action mailed January 26, 2005. Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

In this amendment, claims 1, 14, 55, 56, 57, 61, 62, 63, 65 and 66 are amended and claims 3, 24 and 35-47 are canceled. The currently pending claims in the application are 1-2, 4-23, 25-34, 48, 51-63 and 65-66.

Independent claims 1, 55, 56, 57, 61, 62, 63, 65 and 66 have been amended to recite that a pultruded part according to the present invention comprises a reinforcing structure having a thickness of about 0.004-0.020 inches that consists essentially of a transport mat and planar, non-overlapping fibers that do not extend over or cover one another in any particular layer. Because the reinforcing fibers are properly oriented and do not overlap, the oriented configuration of the fibers in this reinforcing structure provides a pultruded part with an extremely thin profile or wall thickness of about 0.025-0.045 inches when incorporated with longitudinal rovings and a suitable thermoset resin.

The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed and do not include new matter. In particular, a pultruded part incorporating the recited reinforcing structure having a thickness of about 0.004-0.020 inches is found in originally filed claim 14. Amendments to the other claims were made in order to provide for the use of consistent language for the recited features.

In the outstanding office action, all of the claims were rejected as being unpatentable in view of various combinations of references that are cited for the first time in this office action. Applicants note that the rejections of the claims based on the references cited in the previous office action have been withdrawn. The new rejections of the claims made by the Examiner are summarized in the following table.

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Currently Rejected Claims	References
1-8, 11-18, 24-25, 28-29, 35-48, 51-54, 61 and 65-66	Haraguchi (primary), Corrons
17	Haraguchi (primary), Corrons and Radvan
19-23, 26-27, 56-60	Haraguchi (primary), Corrons
9-10 and 55	Haraguchi (primary), Corrons and Martin
32-34 and 62-63	Haraguchi (primary), Corrons and Vane
30-31	Haraguchi (primary), Corrons and Beer

As evident from the table, each rejection is based on a single primary reference, Haraguchi, in view of several different secondary references that are used as an attempted basis to overcome specific deficiencies of the primary reference.

The deficiencies of Haraguchi are clearly set out in the office action. The Examiner has stated that Haraguchi 1) "fails to teach the use of rovings in the reinforcing structure," 2) does not explicitly teach the claimed permeability, tensile strength, bending resistance of fiber and ratio of a modulus of elasticity," 3) "fails to teach the use of bi-component fibers with core-sheath configuration," 4) "fails to teach the claimed transverse direction to which additional reinforcing fibers extend," and 5) "fails to teach the use of a surface treatment on the fibers."

Because of these deficiencies of the primary reference, the secondary references are used to identify the recited features missing from Haraguchi. In brief, Corrons is used to show use of longitudinal rovings as well as stitching and holes formed in the fabric. Radvan is used to show a polyvinyl acetate binder used with a reinforcing material. Martin is used to show a multi-component filament. Vane is used to show layers of yarns or threads that are stitched together. Beer is used to show a permeable mat that may be treated with a silane composition.

Applicants first point out that there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references cited in the outstanding office action of a pultruded part having a reinforcing structure having a thickness of about 0.004-0.020 inches that consists essentially of a transport mat and planar, non-overlapping fibers that do not extend over or cover one another in any particular layer in order to provide a pultruded part having a wall thickness of 0.025-

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0.045 inches. Corrons reports a complex multilayer fabric that contains a porous tissue paper backing. This tissue paper backing serves as a foundation for the additional layers of the complex fabric including chopped glass fibers and glass fiber rovings. In clear contrast to the fabric reported by Corrons, the claimed invention does not contain the tissue paper backing. There is no teaching or suggestion that the rovings reported by Corrons should be used without the reported tissue paper backing. Applicants also note that in an earlier office action mailed March 30, 2004, this recited feature of the use of roving strands with a mat was argued by the Examiner to be shown in the reference to Beall. Since this rejection was overcome in the earlier response and has been withdrawn, Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance because the Examiner has failed to provide any teaching or suggestion for the claimed invention.

Applicants again point out that Haraguchi also fails to teach or suggest a pultruded part having a reinforcing structure having a thickness of about 0.004-0.020 inches that consists essentially of a transport mat and planar, non-overlapping fibers that do not extend over or cover one another in any particular layer in order to provide a pultruded part having a wall thickness of 0.025-0.045 inches as now recited in all of the pending independent claims. This deficiency of Haraguchi is not overcome by any of the secondary references to Corrons, Radvan, Vane, Martin, or Beer. Corrons, for example, reports that the minimal thicknesses for both a mat layer (p. 4, 0.5 mm) and a roving layer (p. 6, 0.5 mm) together provide a combined thickness of 1.0 mm or 0.039 inches without considering the thickness of the required tissue paper backing. Simply put, there has been no prior art identified that teaches or suggests that the now-claimed pultruded part having the recited reinforcing structure.

However, in an effort to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants also provide additional reasons that the amended claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Specifically, Applicants disagree that all of the measured, physical features of the claimed invention are inherent in the materials of Haraguchi when combined with the teachings or suggestions of Corrons. Corrons expressly teaches and suggests the use of a tissue paper backing to form a complex multilayer fabric. The claimed physical

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properties of the present invention considered as a whole cannot be presumed to be inherent in a compilation taught by the combination of Haraguchi and Corrons simply because there is an overlap with some of the materials that are used.

Further, Applicants disagree that the other secondary references teach or suggest the claimed invention. The various features that have been found in the secondary references depend on the disclosure of the present invention. There is nothing, absent the present disclosure, that serves as a basis to make the combinations that have been relied on by the Examiner. There must be some motivation to combine the cited references independent of the disclosure of the present application. Absent a proper motivation to combine the cited references, Applicants request that the other rejections also be withdrawn.

In sum, all of the independent claims now recite that the pultruded part includes a reinforcing structure having a thickness of about 0.004-0.020 inches that consist essentially of a transport mat and planar, non-overlapping fibers that do not extend over or cover one another in any particular layer in order to provide a pultruded part having a wall thickness of 0.025-0.045 inches. Applicants submit that all of the other rejections set out in the office action are, therefore, traversed for these reasons set out above and request that rejections of the claims be withdrawn.

Finally, Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has made a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of the pending claims based on the pending claims of copending application serial number 10/015,106 in view of US 4,983,453 to Beall. Applicants, in order to provide a complete response to the office action, offer to file an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer to overcome this rejection upon notice of allowable subject matter in the now copending application.

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In view of the present amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner pass this application to issuance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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